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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 01516 011945Z

84-83:
ACTION ARA-11

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-06 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
SY-01 AID-12 L-02 O-03 PM-03 PRS-01 DODE-00 CCO-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /072 W

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 4-22-83

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFY ✓ CLASSIFIED BY 5

PURGE DEFINED

PA or FOI EXCEPTIONS

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 5/16/77

PER F.Devine OFFICE ARA

FOI CASE NO. 630373 Ronfeldt

O P 011845Z AUG 70
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7995
INFO AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
CINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1516

LIMDIS

CINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJ: MITRIONE KIDNAPPING FADRC

REF: MONTEVIDEO'S 1512

1. AT ABOUT 1230 TODAY AMBASSADOR PINTO CAME TO MY OFFICE TO INFORM ME HE WAS EXPECTING MONENTARILY FROM RIO TEXT OF A NOTE WHICH HE WAS TO PRESENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER. THE TEXT HE UNDERSTANDS IS TO CONTAIN THE POINTS WHICH HE PRESENTED ORALLY TO FONMINISTER.
I YESTERDAY (REFTEL) WITH EMPHASIS UPON FIRST POINT.
PEIRANO IS IN PUNTA DEL ESTE TODAY SO PINTO PLANS DELIVER NOTE TO GIAMBRUNO IN FONOFF. (PEIRANO IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO URUGUAY OF COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER.)

2. PINTO REPORTED ANOTHER PHONE CALL THIS MORNING FROM SUPPOSED KIDNAPPERS TO RADIO CENTERARIO, THE GIST OF WHICH WAS "CALL OFF THE POLICE SEARCH FOR GOMIDE'S KIDNAPPERS OR WE WILL TAKE REVENGE ON HIS FAMILY". PINTO ADDED THAT NONE OF THE CALLS THUS FAR RECEIVED (FIVE OR SIX) HAS MADE ANY MENTION OF MITRIONE.

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46

Montevideo 1516 8/11/70

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P 770004-0017 UNCLASSIFIED
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3. PINTO HAS RECEIVED WORD FROM RIO THAT DATE IN MITRIONE'S RING MENTIONED AS IDENTIFICATION IN "MLN NOTE" IS CORRECT. (BIAVA, MITRIONE'S DEPUTY IN AID/U, HAS NOT SEEN INSCRIPTION IN ROLEX WATCH BUT KNOWS WATCH WAS GIVEN TO MITRIONE AND DATE IS CORRECT.)

4. COUNTRY TEAM, AS WELL AS PINTO, INCLINED BELIEVE "MLN NOTE" AUTHENTIC, EVEN THOUGH PEIRANO LAST NIGHT INDICATED SOME DOUBT. PINTO BELIEVES MLN MAY BE WAITING FOR REPLY OF SOME KIND FROM GOU, WHEREAS, HE AGREES, PEIRANO PROBABLY FEELS HE SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING MORE CONCRETE BEFORE SHOWING GOVERNMENT'S HAND. HE CONCLUDES PROBABLY ONLY WAY GOU COULD RESPOND IN CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE THROUGH PRESS. IF THIS IS CORRECT--AND IT COULD BE--PRECIOUS TIME COULD BE LOST IN WAITING FOR ADDITIONAL WORD FROM KIDNAPPERS.

5. I BELIEVE PINTO AGREES WITH ME THAT NOW AT LEAST IS NOT THE TIME FOR PRESSURE TACTICS AGAINST GOU. HE ALSO SAID THE FORMAL NOTE WAS NOT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS. I CONFESSED I SAW NO HARM IN SUCH A NOTE AND IN FACT FELT IT MIGHT BE WELL FOR THE US TO SEND SIMILAR NOTE FOR THE RECORD.

6. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING AND AFTER DISCUSSION WITH SOME OF CT MEMBERS, I RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING ACTION FOR THE PRESENT:

A. IN ORDER TO BE ON THE RECORD, SUGGEST DEPT INSTRUCT ME TO PRESENT TO FONMIN ASAP A FORMAL NOTE EXPRESSING OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER MATTER AND OUR CONFIDENCE THAT GOU IS MAKING AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO SECURE MITRIONE'S RELEASE. POINTS 2 AND 3 OF BRAZILIAN PRESENTATION AS REPORTED REFTEL COULD BE INCLUDED BUT SHOULD NOT BE EMPHASIZED.

B. IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE RISK OF LOSING TIME IN EFFECTING MITRIONE'S RELEASE, I SUGGEST DEPT AUTHORIZE ME SPEAK TO FONMIN--AT TIME OF DELIVERYING NOTE--IN FOLLOWING VEIN: (1) IT SEEMS EVIDENT GOU IS WITHHOLDING DECISION REGARDING COMMUNICATION WITH KIDNAPPERS PENDING RECEIPT OF MORE DIRECT WORD FROM KIDNAPPERS. IT ALSO APPEARS POSSIBLE THAT KIDNAPPERS RELYING UPON "MLN NOTE" BELIEVE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO GOU E.G. AS INDICATION OF GOU'S WILLINGNESS TO COMMUNICATE WITH KIDNAPPERS. IF LATTER WERE TRUE, IMPASSE MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED WHEREIN PRECIOUS TIME COULD BE LOST UNNECESSARILY. (2) OUR EXAMINATION OF "MLN NOTE"

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INCLINES US TO BELIEVE IT IS AUTHENTIC. IF MITRIONE HAS SUFFERED A BULLET WOUND AS STATED IN THE NOTE, I AM ESPECIALLY CONCERNED THAT DELAY MAY JEOPARDIZE HIS HEALTH. --I WOULD SUGGEST THEREFORE FOR MINISTER'S CONSIDERATION THAT WORD BE GOTTEN TO KIDNAPPERS THROUGH PRESS OR OTHER EFFECTIVE MEANS THAT GOVERNMENT WILLING TO COMMUNICATE AND RECEIVE FURTHER WORD FROM KIDNAPPERS; THAT THIS COULD BE DONE PERHAPS WITHOUT MENTION AT THIS MOMENT OF "NEGOTIATION" OR "RANSOM".

7. BEYOND THE FOREGOING I HAVE NO FURTHER RECOMMENDATION FOR THE MOMENT. EVENTUALLY WASHINGTON MAY HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION ON "PRESSURE TACTICS". I WOULD POINT OUT THAT IF THE GOU DECIDES TO RANSOM POLITICAL PRISONERS, IT WILL REPRESENT A CHANGE OF POLICY AND WILL MOST PROBABLY ENCOURAGE LOCAL TERRORIST GROUPS TO EMPLOY KIDNAPPING MORE FREQUENTLY AND EVEN INCREASE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL. THE RISK TO EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS WILL IN FUTURE BE VERY CONSIDERABLY INCREASED. HAVING SAID THAT--OF WHICH THE DEPARTMENT DOUBTLESS WELL AWARE--I ASSURE YOU EVERYONE HERE WISHES DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE ASSURE MITRIONE'S SAFE RETURN AND ANY INSTRUCTION WHICH DEPT IN LIGHT OF BROADER EXPERIENCE MAY EVENTUALLY DECIDE UPON WILL BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED.
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